

Addresses in Memory of Hon. George S. Hale

At the Annual Meeting of
The Conference of Child-helping Societies
December 1, 1897

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ADDRESSES

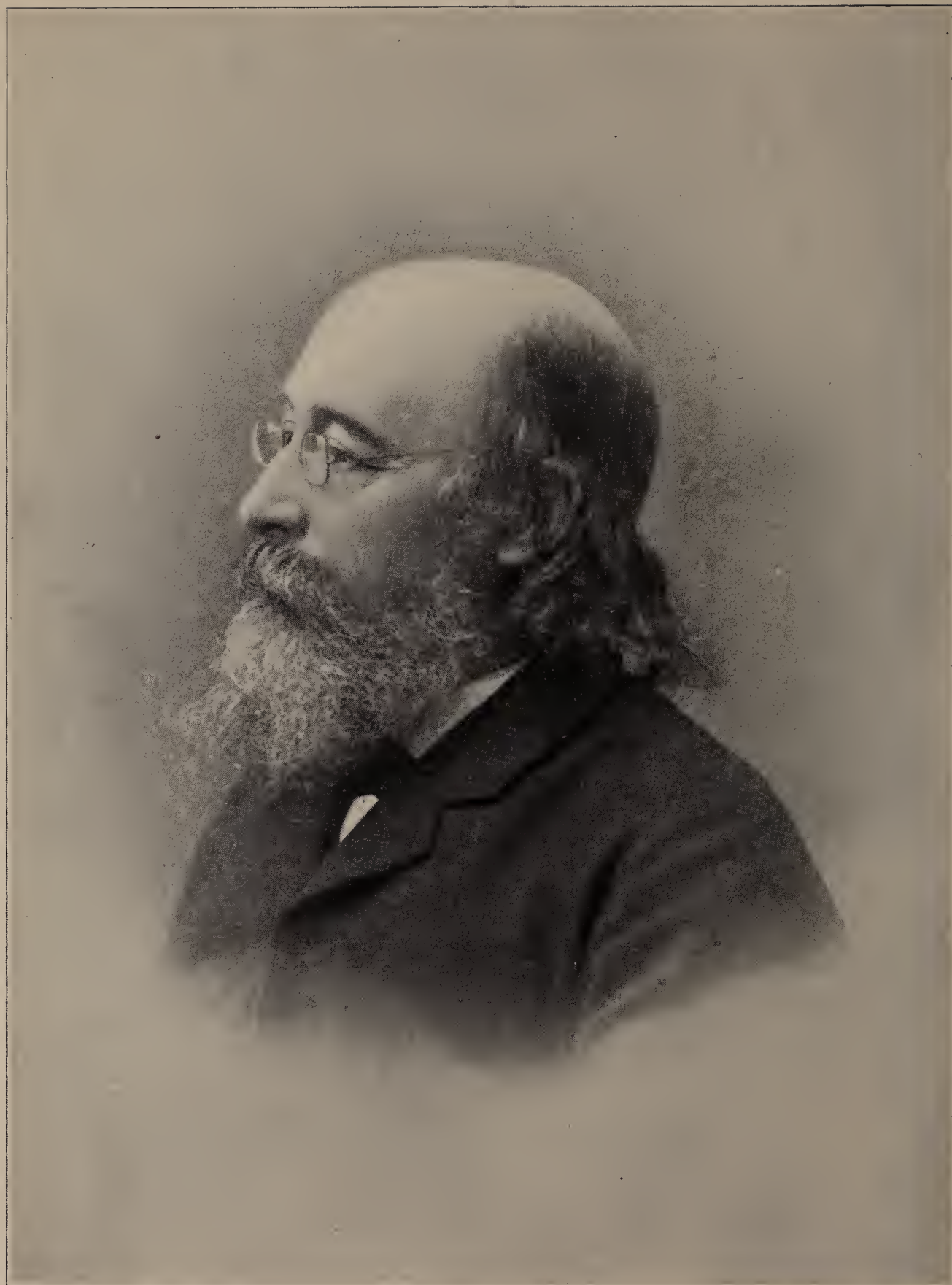
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HON. GEORGE S. HALE

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A D D R E S S E S

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THE CONFERENCE OF CHILD-HELPING SOCIETIES

1898

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THE following addresses were delivered at the meeting announced in the notice which is reprinted on the next page. The address of Rev. Edward Everett Hale is printed from the short-hand report made by Miss Martha D. Adams, who very kindly gave the Conference the benefit of her work. The addresses of Rev. Charles G. Ames and Mr. Thomas F. Ring are printed from abstracts written out by them a day or two after the meeting, and the address of Hon. Robert Treat Paine is printed from the notes which he used in delivering it. Mrs. Charles G. Ames spoke most appreciatively; but, very unfortunately, she had made no notes for her address, and felt unable to make any satisfactory abstract from memory.

HARVEY H. BAKER,

Secretary Conference Child-helping Societies.

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BOSTON, Nov. 22, 1897.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE OF CHILD-HELPING
SOCIETIES:

The annual meeting of the Conference of Child-helping Societies will be held by adjournment on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1897, at 7.45 P.M., in Room 11, Rogers Building, Institute of Technology.

In accordance with a vote of the Council this meeting will take the form of a memorial of Hon. George S. Hale, the late President. Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D., will make the chief address; and several others, who knew Mr. Hale in one or another of his many charitable interests, will speak briefly.

Mr. Hale's life is such a splendid example of untiring, kindly, and successful public service that we believe this meeting will be most helpful and inspiring to the members of the Conference, and we trust that all who can will be present.

THOMAS F. RING,

ANNETTE P. ROGERS,

CHARLES E. GRINNELL,

HARVEY H. BAKER,

Committee.

Address of
REV. EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

I OUGHT to say, before I begin, that I am not prejudiced in any way by ties of blood. Mr. Hale was always kind enough to call me his cousin, and I was very glad to call him mine; but the cousinship depends simply on that universal New England tradition, "three brothers came over together," and we have no real knowledge of any tie between the families.

I do not know when I did not know him. I certainly do not know when I did not respect him; and very soon I learned to love him. Our relations were very intimate. The relations of anybody who tries to be of use in Boston must be close

with such a man as he, who was the fountain of knowledge in our matter, and whom you always came to rely on, not only for what he knew and said, but for what he did and for his influence on other people, which was very large.

He himself described the condition of those things in relation to which we speak of him here to-night, in one of those brilliant passages of his writing, in which, as so often, a covert satire and a keen sense of humor were brought in with the serious statement which he had to make. I have copied from the beginning of his classical essay on our Massachusetts and Boston charities this statement, which I read because it shows just what his position was in this community : —

The charities of Boston cannot be adequately described or recorded in the space here allotted to the subject. The beneficence, public and private, which has filled and

adorned more than two centuries of municipal existence; which has sent warmth, life, and healing to every quarter of the globe, among strangers and kindred, enemies and friends,—must yield a large part of the space which might be well employed for its story to histories of wars with savages, persecutions of fanatics, and resistance to misgovernment.

Does not this suggest somewhat sadly the place which such a man as that occupies in this community? Wars with savages,—yes; misgovernment,—yes; and in the midst of it you have to have a mainspring, a balance-wheel, like this quiet man, who knows all about law, all about history, will not let you go too far here or there, and keeps his eye on the administration.

Our great charity system — it is a commonplace to say it here — divides itself into, first, the immense benevolence of the State, then into the

work of the churches, of the societies whose names we heard just now, and of experts in particular lines ; and yet again there are those hospitals and other public institutions which the State maintains for different classes of sufferers, and for which fully three-fourths of our taxation goes, and yet which are not classed exactly with poor-relief. Now it would have been a good thing in any community to have a man who was an expert in one of these things. But this man,—by the nature of his moral qualities, I should say, more than from his mental organization,—from the moment that he established his reputation here, was recognized as a master in all these three lines. I ought not to say it, perhaps, in this company, but certainly there have been times when nobody would have been considered such an expert in the very complicated pauper law of Massachusetts as he was.

If the legislature wanted to tamper with that law and alter it in this way or that, George Hale would have been the first person and the last to be consulted, and on his approval or disapproval would have been determined the feeling of sensible people as to whether the change should or should not be made.

Then you always found that he was interested in the charity work of the churches, in the work of the Associated Charities. Whatever philanthropic movement commanded respect, you found that George Hale had quietly come in there, had acquainted himself with the facts, and, when you wanted to know, you went and asked him. Mr. Justin Winsor, as a perfect matter of course, when he had to have a history of all these charities brought together, went to no one else but to George Hale. And, if the governor, when he

came into office, wanted to know about these fifteen public institutions, which together involve a responsibility larger than any other which the governor has to carry, he would not have considered himself safe till he had had an interview with George Hale, to find which one was creditable to the State and which was not, where there was a scandal and where he had better put his finger.

I think he was a great executive man, but I do not think it was because he was a great executive man that he came into this business. I think he found out very early, because he was a profoundly religious man, that every man must be his brother's keeper. He did not have to go to church to be told that every man must bear his brother's burdens, and he wanted really to do unto others as he would have others do to him. He knew that the whole law was summed up in this, that a man shall

love his neighbor as himself ; but he knew this, not as matter of sentiment. He really believed that the year 1900 would be a better year than the year 1850 had been ; and he meant, as being an influential person in this community, to bring that change about.

This was what made him so accurate a student on these subjects. What he knew he knew. He knew, not simply adequately, but remarkably well, what had been done in other countries and in other parts of the world. I never had occasion to consult him on many ranges of these subjects, but there were certain ranges on which I consulted him a great deal. You always found him broad and liberal, ready to give up his own fancy, if you could show him a reason for it, without that set, hard way of some philanthropists.

He did not go into extravagances, and yet he

was absolutely brave. No one could bully him. I have two of the little pamphlets which he wrote at the time when we were urging an important matter before a committee of the legislature. They are models of speeches before such a committee,—most of us have had the fortune to appear before them,—good-natured men who never heard of the subject before. Hale believed in the people, and he believed that the legislature meant to do the right thing if they could find out what the right thing was. He was not easily prejudiced ; and, as I say, he was very courageous.

It goes without saying that such a man is unselfish. He was perfectly willing to give his time to the public. Although we all know that these great trusts which he had in hand must have occupied his thought,—and, as it proved, took away his life,—yet, when you went up to his

office, there was always the impression which a great man gives you, that he was quite at leisure, and had nothing but your affair to think of at that moment. That belonged to the complete unselfishness of his nature.

I would like to say one thing which I think this assembly may not have noticed. In the discussions at Lake Mohonk on the peace question, he lifted the whole thing up on a higher plane. He took it off this man's particular theory and that, and made you look at it from a higher level, so that you saw how these different fancies and plans and theories were to be reconciled with each other. Somebody said to me yesterday that he had the power of conciliation to a remarkable degree, and that he owed that power to his real largeness of mind. He was not seeking victory for his own plans nor success for himself, but he

really wanted the affair to proceed by the largest method that was possible. At the two last conferences at Lake Mohonk I should say, I think Mr. Paine would say, that Mr. Hale was the leading person present,—not that he talked so much as other people, but that at the right moment he said the right thing in the right way, and made people see the whole from a higher point of view. Those two speeches of his are worth preservation as a central paper on this subject. They show in a very characteristic way the nature of the power of the man.

I am permitted to read a note from an early friend of his, which I think ought to be presented here :—

Justice will probably be done to Mr. Hale's integrity, fidelity, and ability. His indefatigable industry will also be remembered, and perhaps the marvellous courage and de-

termination which gave him the victory over delicate health and almost useless eyes during many critical years of his youth. But I can hardly think of any one who will tell of the tenderness and loyalty which bound him to his friends, and to the children of his friends, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, until death did them part.

He was not only faithful to his personal friendships, but he assumed those of his parents. For more than forty years he had found time in a most laborious life to pay frequent, regular visits, sometimes in distant towns, to several aged people, for the sole purpose of giving a friendly greeting to those who had known his mother. One such old lady, to whose house these pious pilgrimages were faithfully made for years, until her mental powers had quite failed, said to me, "George Hale has been the comfort of my life." Nothing could exceed the sympathy and personal devotion which characterized his relations with his intimate friends, whose interests were identical with his own. He not only loved and served his friends: he was ready to fight for them, if need be.

These characteristics, together with his exquisite taste in

literature and his attitude toward the whole subject of religion, were such a vital part of his personality that I cannot be reconciled to having them inadequately presented in any sketch of his life.

Nearly fifty years ago, before the observance of Sunday had come to be so largely a matter of athletics as now, George Hale began the lifelong habit of spending a large part of the day of rest out of doors. He was a prodigious walker,—walking always, both from a love of nature and in search of health. But it was always his custom to walk toward a more or less distant country church, and to arrive in time for the morning service, which, I will venture to say, he rarely missed, wherever he chanced to be, during his whole life. Indeed, he once told me that he often found himself more refreshed by that hour than by any other part of the day. “I often find myself repeating the hymns or reconstructing the sermon,” he said, “as I walk back to town in the afternoon; and so I leave my business behind me.” He was a rarely devout man, and he loved the expression of religious feeling with the ardor of a truly poetic spirit.

It was an unusual combination of qualities shown in this sagacious, successful man of affairs; and I long to have the young men of to-day feel the full inspiration of it.

I remember, five-and-twenty years ago, how the business of one of these very societies compelled me to go, right in the middle of the business day, into Judge Thomas's office. I went into the private office to find the leading lawyer of the Boston bar, whose advice I wanted, sitting in front of his fire, and reading Saint Augustine's "Meditations." "I never saw this till day before yesterday," said he. "Look at this, and this!" He was getting his strength at the fountain-head. I never went into Mr. Hale's office when I was not affected in the same way. Here was a child of God, intimate with God, and trying to do his Father's work.

Address of
HON. ROBERT TREAT PAINE.

MANY voices may well unite in doing honor to the sturdy, all-round character of the honored man whom, and whose noble services to mankind, we commemorate to-night. His life and these services of his have been richly intertwined with the whole growth of all that was best in Boston for half a century. It has been my great privilege to have known him well, to have loved him truly, and to have honored him profoundly. In many different relations we have been brought into close contact.

May I speak a few words to-night, as President of the Associated Charities of Boston, to tell you

as well as I am able, probably to recall to many of you, the splendid service which Mr. Hale has rendered to the whole movement in behalf of wise, thorough, sympathetic, organizing, constructive charity,—charity in no mean sense nor within narrow limitations, charity in its amplest scope, with its grandest ideals.

How well I remember, more than once, at some meeting to promote the interests of the Associated Charities, calling upon Mr. Hale to speak in words peculiarly and especially appropriate to him, “No meeting in behalf of charity is complete in Boston until we have heard the wise counsel of George S. Hale”! Never did he fail to rise to the fullest height of the great argument that we expected from his lips.

George S. Hale was an honored member in that long and honored company of wise, patriotic, pub-

lic-spirited men, native or adopted sons of Boston, who for at least three-quarters of a century have guided so superbly the charitable counsels and energies of the city whose good name and fame are such a glorious inheritance from the past, and which such men as George S. Hale have made it sure that we shall transmit to our children in undiminished honor. Time does not permit me to go too deeply into history, but even this brief outline would be quite incomplete if the portrait of Mr. Hale were looked at alone. Rather let us place him upon the walls of recent history among that brilliant galaxy of the great and good men of Boston who have made the history of Boston's interest in wise and thorough charity such a noble heritage during at least this last three-fourths of a century.

Joseph Tuckerman, perhaps pioneer in this

beautiful work of personal charity, whose work on the "Elevation of the Poor" is a Boston classic (and we delight to remember to-night the introduction written by Edward Everett Hale, who still survives in the strength of an age which defies the attack of old Father Time and refuses to grow old, though he is perhaps the last survivor of all those who have guided the charitable life of Boston in this century),— Joseph Tuckerman, appointed City Missionary in 1826, Charles F. Barnard, his assistant in 1832, Father Cleveland, and Rev. E. M. P. Wells, and at that time the great names of Dr. Channing, Dr. Henry Ware, Jr., Dr. Gannett, Dr. Pierpont, among the ministers; George Ticknor, Jonathan Phillips, the Jacksons, Charles, James, and Patrick Tracy, the Lawrences, and the Appletons,— these were among the men, in the second quarter of this century, illustrious in the annals of Boston and of charity.

Robert C. Winthrop, Dr. Ephraim Peabody, Samuel A. Eliot, Bishop Huntington, Dr. Blagden, Dr. Charles Mason, Francis E. Parker, all men whose names we delight to remember and to honor, shared in the new charitable movement of the second half of this century.

In the decade from 1860 to 1870 occurred the reorganization of the municipal system of caring for the poor of Boston. A group of illustrious men guided this great enterprise. Robert C. Winthrop, F. W. Lincoln, Francis E. Parker, and George S. Hale were prominent among the men who created so wisely the new scheme which, on the whole, has given great satisfaction to thoughtful students of the best methods of relieving need in a great city.

At this time began, as I suppose, the specially devoted labors of Mr. Hale as a student and

worker in this cause. Nothing which is difficult can be well done without thorough, painstaking, consecrated patience, perseverance, and thoughtfulness. These qualities and others, all guided by wisdom, Mr. Hale now brought to this cause, which, in the midst of a very busy professional life, never ceased to share his best thought and to receive a full measure of the best hours of his labor. The manual for the Overseers of the Poor in Boston, an octavo volume of two hundred pages, was prepared by Mr. Hale, with his researches into the ancient laws and customs dealing with this question of relief, including the law of settlement, and a detailed account of the trust funds held by the Overseers of the Poor in Boston. This manual has been the corner-stone for thorough knowledge on these subjects from 1866 to the present time. Let me read the passage from an old writer which

Mr. Hale quotes in concluding his preface to this invaluable work : —

I have set forth this Treatise, not for ambition, as Nimrod did the Tower of Babel, to get a name; nor for vain-glory, as Absalom did a pillar, to preserve his name (for which cause I forbear my name); but of mere affection to my native country, to further it. If there be anything omitted, amend it; if there be something worth the following, use it; if it be a little defective, excuse it.

Again, in 1878, Boston appointed a Commission on the Treatment of the Poor to ascertain “what, if any, changes are desirable in the laws of the Commonwealth and the ordinances of the city for the relief, maintenance, and employment of all classes of the poor.” Mr. Hale was chairman, with Alvah A. Burrage and Augustus Parker as associates. Mr. Hale was no doubt the chief author

of the invaluable report which his committee made, and which has ever since been a classic on this most important subject.

Come now to the organization of the Associated Charities. The meeting on Feb. 9, 1879, launched the Associated Charities. Martin Brimmer presided. Mr. Hale presented, explained, and advocated the new plan proposed by such men as E. R. Mudge, Causten Browne, Edward Everett Hale, and Phillips Brooks. The Associated Charities thus started has done to the best of its ability its work of bringing into judicious and effective co-operation the charitable energies of Boston. Whatever measure of success has attended the charitable life and growth of Boston in this last score of years has been largely due to the spirit of conciliation, mutual recognition, and genuine respect, which has been entertained by each and all

of the great charitable societies of Boston toward all of their associates. I do not know another city where this spirit of mutual respect and the readiness for mutual co-operation have been more ardent. I can recall no instance of any important violation or lack. Fortunately Boston has been absolutely free from any proselyting spirit, so that no disagreement or jealousy has sprung up between the great branches of the universal Church, but all have worked in harmonious accord for common ends.

No man is entitled to a fuller measure of credit than George S. Hale for these happy consummations. Himself always nobly strenuous, yet ever considerate of the equal rights of others, a conspicuous example of lofty integrity of purpose, he was equally free from suspicion about co-workers. Ardent in his own Christian faith, he never failed

to respect the faith of others. Fearless in his advocacy of every honest cause, his zeal always respected the convictions of honest opponents, while whatever was base received scathing denunciation. No man could have added to the intellectual ardor of a student a kinder, warmer, truer, more heartfelt sympathy for individual sufferers in distress, destitution, or degradation. His heart took them all in.

In all the work of the Associated Charities in these eighteen years, whenever exact and thorough knowledge was needed, Mr. Hale's counsel and aid were always invoked and as readily granted. The Directory of Charities contained an invaluable chapter on Legal Suggestions, covering twenty-two different and important headings, all prepared by the legal skill and charitable love of George S. Hale.

Here, also, I may ask you to recall the well-known fact that, when the Memorial History of Boston, in four ample volumes, was prepared in 1881, who but Mr. Hale was the man to write the chapter on the Charities of Boston, rich in antiquarian lore, which his devotion to this subject had led him to gather, and compact with all the data of this vast subject, which he collected with endless zeal and laborious pains, and digested with ripe wisdom.

This is a meeting of the Conference of Child-helping Societies. Others have spoken of Mr. Hale as President of the Children's Aid Society, and of this Conference of the various agencies in Boston working to promote the welfare of children. It is one of the pleasures of my life to have served these many years as a director of the Children's Aid Society, to have welcomed Mr. Hale when he

came upon the Board, to have counselled with him on many various and profoundly interesting questions dealing with the care and protection of children in Boston. Busy as Mr. Hale was with the absorbing business of an able and successful lawyer, I never knew him too busy at once to consider the complicated case of some boy or girl coming before the Children's Aid Society for consideration and wise action, and carried to him in his private office and during his busiest hours.

Yes, indeed, through all the years of this last half-century Mr. Hale, an honored, adopted son of Boston, has given to every good cause his untiring energy, his superb support. The cause of wise, beautiful Christian charity owes him a debt of gratitude which will long be treasured by those who shall follow in his steps.

Well do I remember, as President of the Asso-

ciated Charities, how Mrs. George S. Hale served many years as a Director of our Board. She was and is one of those women whose enlarged relations to all life have added such charm and glory to this last quarter of the nineteenth century. I can only wonder if other cities of the world equal or surpass Boston in this latest and most exquisite addition to social life. Women retaining all their most delicate and attractive feminine charm, with minds expanded with a full measure of intellectual study, with energy ready to grapple with every social task, have added to the energies of men a tenderer and even more devoted element. Absolutely free from evil consequences, this enlarged alliance has been the most significant feature of the progress of our times in all charitable life and work.

Why do I speak now of this except that, per-

haps without lack of delicacy, I may ask you to imagine, if you can, the wondrous delight of the family home where husband and wife find congenial joy in wise thought and devoted care and guidance of the great charitable movements in the city of their life and love? Such was the happy lot in high degree of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Hale.

Address of
MR. THOMAS F. RING.

MY acquaintance with Mr. George S. Hale dates back to the early days of the Associated Charities in Boston. I feel that the Associated Charities has been the means of bringing together in friendly and sometimes intimate relations many earnest workers for the good of the poor, who but for this tie might never have known each other. I was then a member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor; and, in studying the history of the Board, I found that Mr. Hale had been a member before my time, and had given close care to preparing the rules of the Board, and was thoroughly informed in every matter relating

to the poor. I called on him often for advice and suggestions, and always obtained what I sought.

In the series of attempts to procure legislation to improve the management of the public institutions, it was my good fortune to see much of Mr. Hale, and to aid, in some slight degree, in the work so many charitable persons had so deeply at heart. I recall that at one hearing at the State House before the Committee on Charities, when Mr. Hale had offered a bill for the separation of the poor from the criminals by giving to the Overseers of the Poor the care of the almshouses, some one taunted him as being "the paid counsel for a lot of disturbers." Mr. Hale quietly turned on him with the remark, "I trust this is not the last time I shall give unpaid and willing service to the poor of Boston."

It was not my lot often to meet Mr. Hale so-

cially or in business life. I seldom met him except when some public movement for the good of the unfortunate was on foot. At such times he was always present; and where he was, his wise and persuasive counsel carried him to the front. He was, in my estimation, one of the rare souls who lived as much for others as for himself. Now that his earthly career is over, it is but fitting that those who knew him in his work for the poor should at this time speak a word of sincere appreciation. It must have given him much satisfaction to have seen the success of the latest movement, which resulted in the formation of the Boards of Trustees for the Poor, the Insane, and the Children, now in the first year of experiment. We know how long he toiled for such a consummation, how pure were his motives, how wholly unselfishly he wrought through delay and disappointment to final success.

When the news of his sudden and lamented death reached Boston, I felt it my duty to address his family a letter of condolence on the part of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; and this letter being read, together with the reply from Mr. Hale's son, at a meeting of the society, the members of that Catholic organization approved and confirmed the action, with the remark that in justice to his merits and his kindness to our society we could say no less in expressing regret for the death of a good man and in sympathy for his wife and children in their loss.

Address of
REV. CHARLES G. AMES.

THE service rendered by Mr. Hale to our organized philanthropy seems to me to have been of rare quality and peculiar excellence. With a judicial temper and legal training, combined with lively human sympathies and a broad outlook, he put into charitable administration a principle of order and a wisdom of method. The value of this kind of service becomes more apparent when we consider what a sad waste of energy and resources there has often been for lack of just such guidance. Right sentiment without right reason is a blind force let loose for mischief.

A good piece of advice comes to us from a

fellow-worker in London: "Be as charitable as possible in your motives, be as business-like as possible in your methods." For such a fine and effective combination we are largely indebted to George S. Hale. He not only saw what needed to be done: he could also show us how to do it, and how to do it with a maximum of force and a minimum of friction.

He was no narrow specialist. Charity with him was one of many manifestations of public spirit. His intelligent activity in other human affairs did not dilute or weaken his interest in this blessed work of "child-helping": it rather enabled him to see it in large relations to the general welfare. But he seemed to focalize his faculties and his interest upon each matter in hand, as if the whole man were dealing with "this one thing." And I am sure that he could have adopted as his own the

words used by Horace Mann when he was Secretary of the State Board of Education: "I love every child in Massachusetts."

Wisdom and goodness,—these are the qualities which were blended in the personality of our ascended friend. Wisdom and goodness,—what can there be better than these in heaven? God is light, God is love; and any man who shares his light and love must surely be "a partaker of the divine nature." That such a man has dwelt and moved among us, that a life made rich and ripe with these best products of inspiration has been given to the world, may well fill us with gratitude to God and with affectionate reverence for the memory of George S. Hale.

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